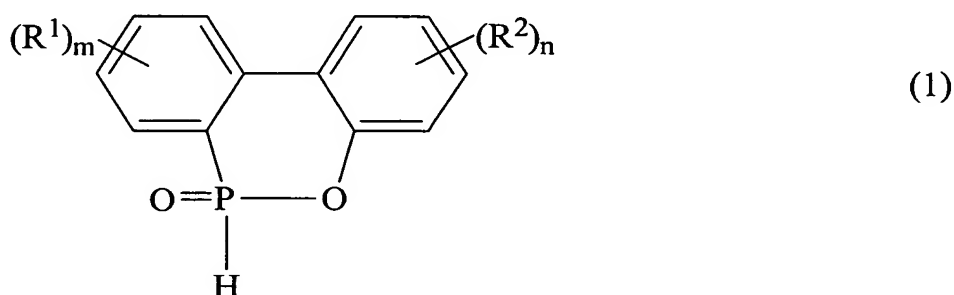


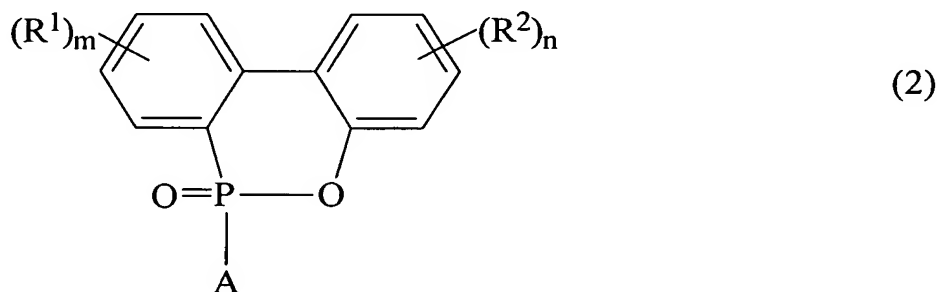
In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- 1. (Original) A thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches, comprising:
an organophosphorus compound represented by General Formula (1):**



wherein R¹ and R² each represent an organic group or a halogen atom, and m and n each represent an integer of 0 to 4, and when m or n is an integer of 2 to 4, R¹ and R² may be the same or different, and/or an organophosphorus compound represented by General Formula (2):



wherein R¹ and R² each represent an organic group or a halogen atom, and m and n each represent an integer of 0 to 4, and when m or n is an integer of 2 to 4, R¹ and R² may be the same or different, and A represents an organic group that is the same as or different from R¹ and R²; and

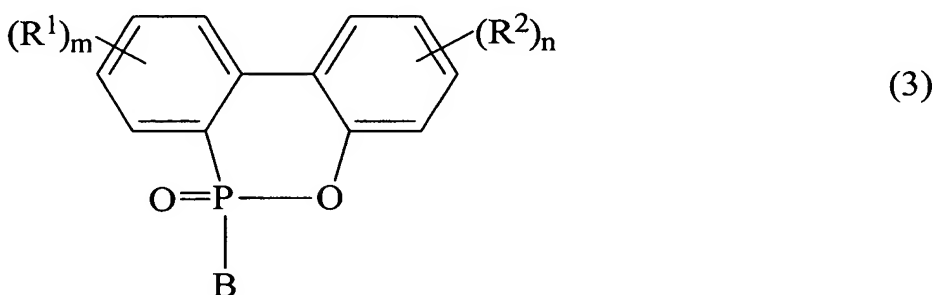
a thermoplastic resin, wherein

the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches contains a phosphorus content of 5000 ppm or more.

2. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to Claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches contains a bivalent metal compound such that the content of the bivalent metal is from 1 ppm to 250 ppm based on the amount of the organophosphorus compound represented by General Formula (1) and/or the organophosphorus compound represented by General Formula (2).

3. (Original) A thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches, comprising:

a thermoplastic resin in which an organophosphorus compound represented by General Formula (3):



wherein R^1 and R^2 each represent an organic group or a halogen atom, and m and n each represent an integer of 0 to 4, and when m or n is an integer of 2 to 4, R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different, and B represents an organic group having a functional group, is incorporated as a constituent, wherein

the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches contains a phosphorus content of 5000 ppm or more.

4. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to Claim 3, wherein the thermoplastic resin

composition for masterbatches contains a bivalent metal compound such that the content of the bivalent metal is from 1 ppm to 250 ppm based on the amount of the organophosphorus compound represented by General Formula (3).

5. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to Claim 2 or 4, wherein the bivalent metal is zinc.

6. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1 or 3, wherein the organophosphorus compound forms a fine powder with a bulk density of 2 cm³/g or less.

7. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 6~~ Claim 1 or 3, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polyester resin.

8. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to Claim 7, wherein the polyester resin is at least one selected from polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polytrimethylene terephthalate, and polylactic acid.

9. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to Claim 7 ~~[[or 8]]~~, wherein a germanium compound is used as a polymerization catalyst in production of the polyester resin.

10. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 9~~ Claim 1 or 3, further comprising a weather-resistance-imparting agent.

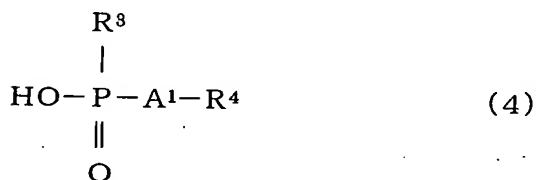
11. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition

for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 10~~ Claim 1 or 3, wherein the weather-resistance-imparting agent is at least one compound selected from hindered amine compounds, nitrogen-containing hindered phenolic compounds, metal salt hindered phenolic compounds, phenolic compounds, hindered phenolic compounds, and sulfur compounds.

12. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 11~~ Claim 1 or 3, wherein the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches has an L value (whiteness) of 25 or more, where the L value is measured with a Hunter color-difference meter.

13. (Original) A thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches, comprising:

an organophosphorus compound represented by General Formula (4):



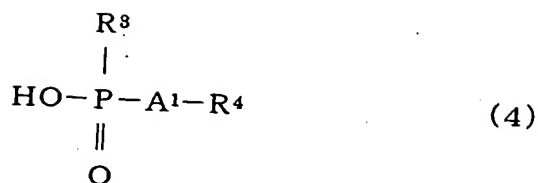
wherein R³ represents a monovalent organic group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, R⁴ represents a monovalent functional group, and A¹ represents a bivalent organic group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms; and

a thermoplastic resin, wherein

the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches contains a phosphorus content of 5000 ppm or more.

14. (Original) A thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches, comprising:

a thermoplastic resin in which an organophosphorus compound represented by General Formula (4):



wherein R³ represents a monovalent organic group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, R⁴ represents a monovalent functional group, and A¹ represents a bivalent organic group of 1 to 18 carbon atoms, is incorporated as a constituent, wherein

the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches contains a phosphorus content of 5000 ppm or more.

15. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to Claim 13 or 14, wherein the organophosphorus compound forms a fine powder with a bulk density of at most 2 cm³/g.

16. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 15~~ Claim 13 or 14, wherein the thermoplastic resin is a polyester resin.

17. (Original) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to Claim 16, wherein the polyester resin is at least one selected from polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, polytrimethylene terephthalate, and polylactic acid.

18. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to Claim 16 ~~or 17~~, wherein a germanium compound is used as a polymerization catalyst in production of the polyester resin.

19. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 18~~ Claim 13 or

14, further comprising a weather-resistance-imparting agent.

20. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 19~~ Claim 13 or 14, wherein the weather-resistance-imparting agent is at least one compound selected from hindered amine compounds, nitrogen-containing hindered phenolic compounds, metal salt hindered phenolic compounds, phenolic compounds, hindered phenolic compounds, and sulfur compounds.

21. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 13 to 20~~ Claim 13 or 14, wherein the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches has an L value (whiteness) of 40 or more, where the L value is measured with a Hunter color-difference meter.

22. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 21~~ Claim 1, 3, 13 or 14, wherein the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches has a melt viscosity of 2000 to 5000 centipoise at 275°C.

23. (Currently amended) The thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 22~~ Claim 1, 3, 13 or 14, wherein the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches is in the form of chips with a height of at 1 mm or more, a width of 1 mm or more and a length of 1 mm or more.

24. (Currently amended) A method of producing a molding material in the form of chips, comprising:

discharging, from a spinneret, the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 23~~ Claim 1, 3, 13 or 14 to form a rod-shaped molten polymer;

solidifying the rod-shaped molten polymer with cooling water; and then cutting the solidified polymer.

25. (Original) The method according to Claim 24, further comprising cooling, with air for 0.1 to 0.6 seconds, the rod-shaped molten polymer discharged from the spinneret before solidifying it with cooling water.

26. (Currently amended) A thermoplastic resin composition, comprising:

0.5 to 90% by weight of the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 23~~ Claim 1, 3, 13 or 14; and

a thermoplastic resin whose type is the same as or different from the type of the thermoplastic resin used in the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches.

27. (Currently amended) A method of producing a thermoplastic resin composition, comprising mixing 0.5 to 90% by weight of the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 23~~ Claim 1, 3, 13 or 14 with a thermoplastic resin whose type is the same as or different from the type of the thermoplastic resin used in the thermoplastic resin composition for masterbatches.